#### Blackfoot River Restoration



Community Conservation in the Blackfoot Valley

#### Blackfoot River Restoration Team

#### <u>Public</u>

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

North Powell Conservation District

Dept. of Natural Resource Conservation Chutney Foundation

Natural Resource Conservation Service

U.S. Forest Service

Bureau of Reclamation

Bureau of Land Management

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

University of Montana

**Blackfoot Schools** 

Lubrecht Experimental Forest

#### Private

\*Cooperating Private Landowners

Big Blackfoot Chapter of TU

Blackfoot Challenge

Northwestern Energy

**Anonymous Donors** 

Nature Conservancy

Montana Land Reliance

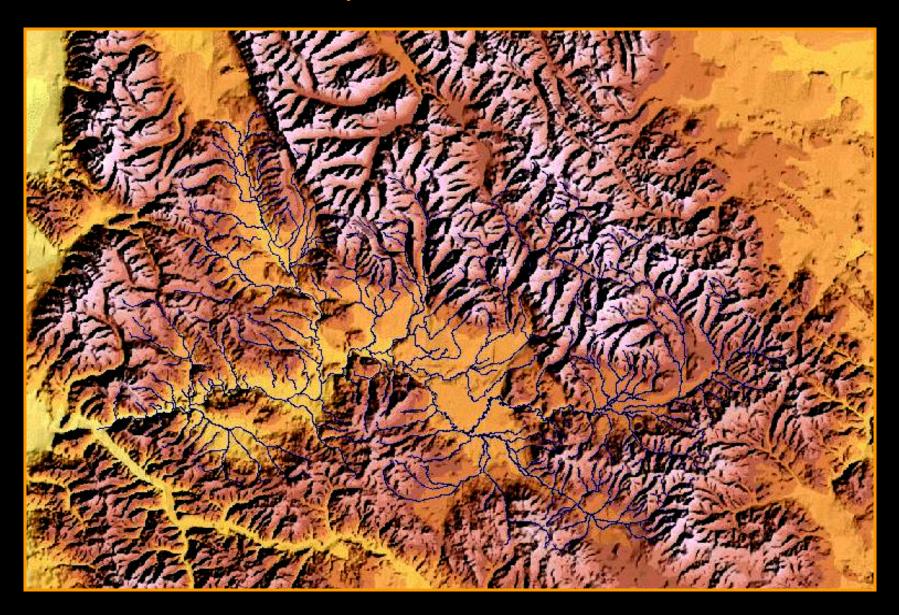
Five Valleys Land Trust

Plum Creek Timber Company

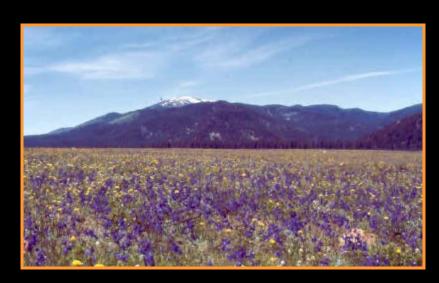
Wildland Hydrology - D. Rosgen

Trixi's Saloon

#### The Blackfoot River Watershed



# Mountains and moraine of the Blackfoot River Valley







# Private lands provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife





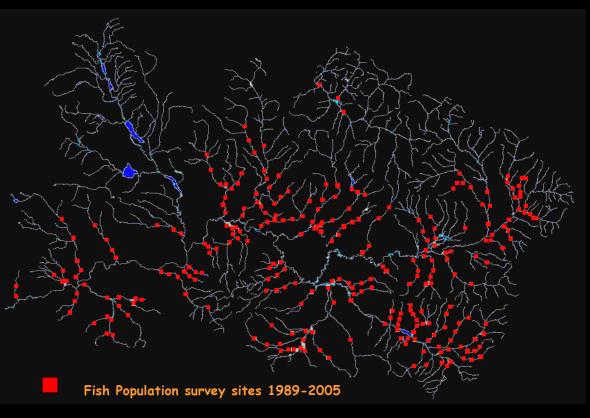
Imperiled native fish





#### FWP's Primary Role: Relate fisheries to their environments...





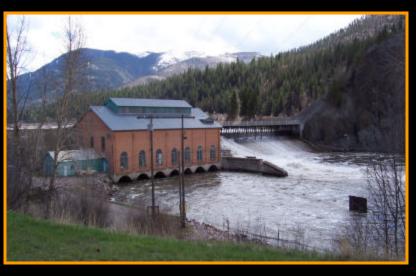
#### ...cultural landscape



Mining pollution



Adverse habitat alterations



Disruption of migration corridors



Over-harvest of native fish

#### Fisheries impairment on 90 of 102 streams



Riparian grazing/feedlots-59



Channel Alterations-41



Road Crossings-43



Irrigation impacts-38



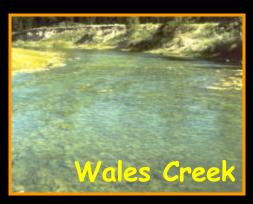
#### Blackfoot River below Nevada Creek



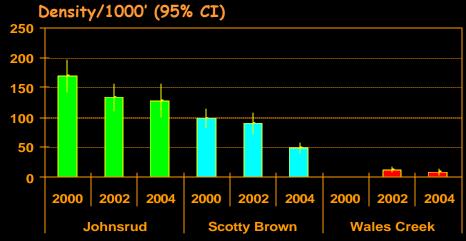
#### River population assessments











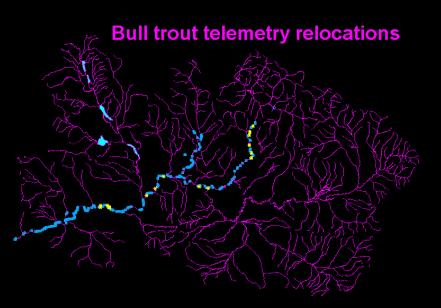
### Movements of Blackfoot River Natives







### Bull trout losses to irrigation ditches

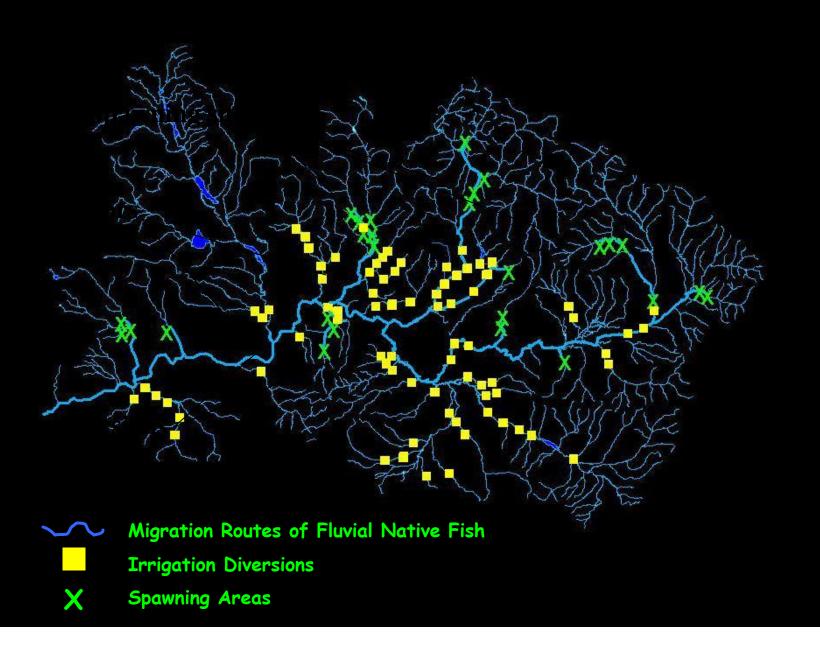




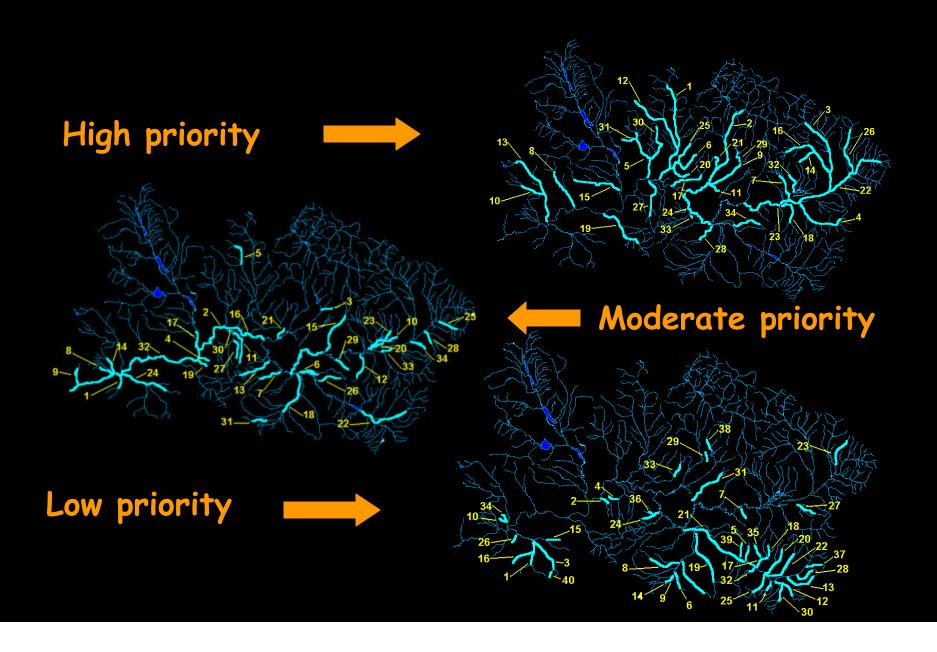




#### Spawning migrations and irrigation diversions...



#### Blackfoot River Restoration Priorities

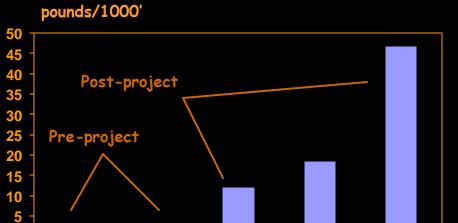


#### Nevada Spring Creek Restoration

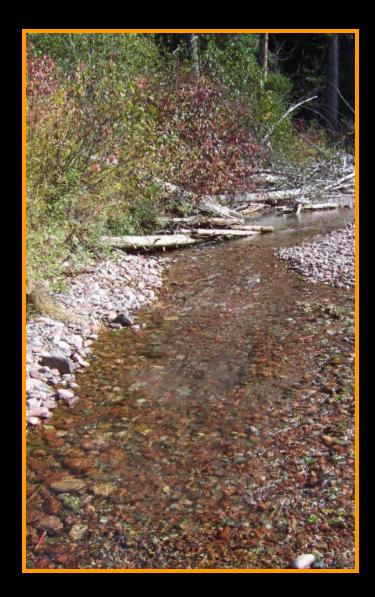


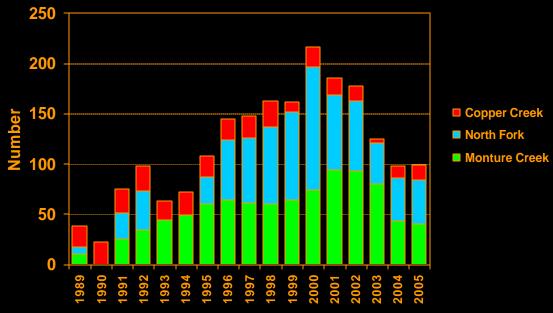


# Trout biomass in upper Nevada Spring Creek

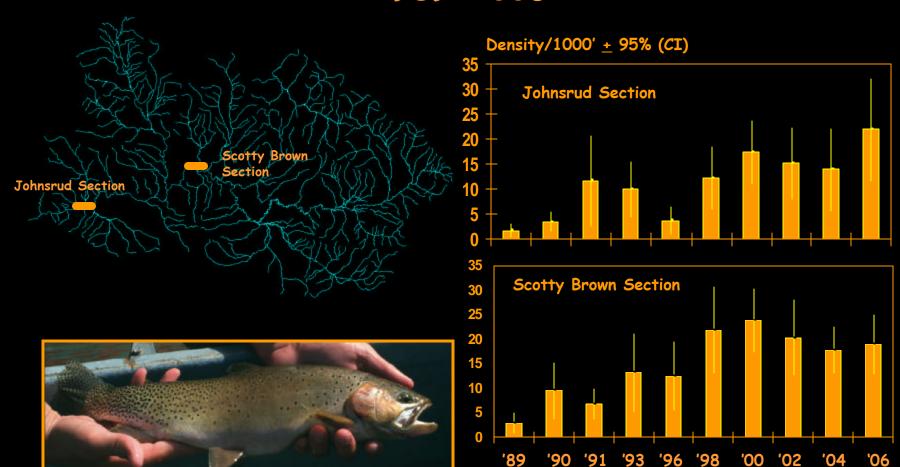


#### Bull trout redd counts



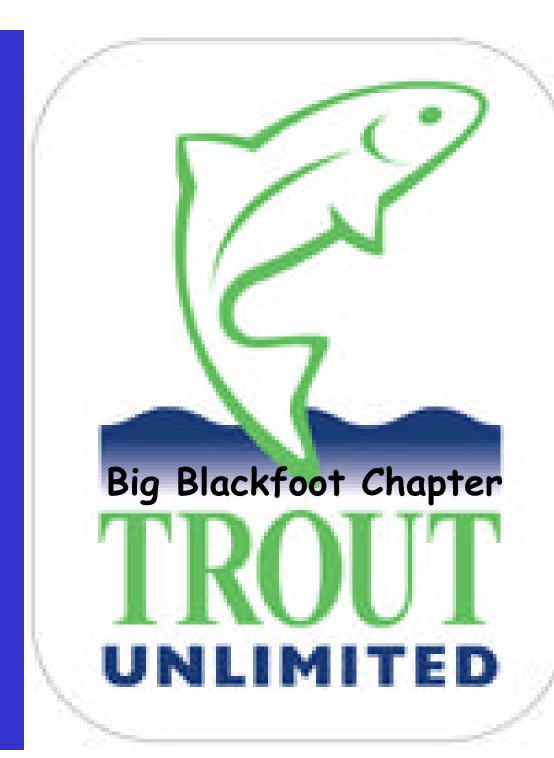


# WSCT (fish>6.0") densities in the Blackfoot River 1989-2006



#### The Role of Trout Unlimited









### A RIVER OVERDONE

It runs straight and hard — on a map or from an airplane it is aimost a straight line running due west from its headwaters at Rogers Pass on the Continental Divide to Bonner, Montana, where it empties into the South Fork of the Columbia. It runs hard ail the way.

- Norman Maclean, "A River Runs Through It."

By GRANT SASEK IR Staff Writer

he Big Blackfoot River still runs . hard. But the river Norman Maclean immortalized in "A River Runs Through It" has changed from one of the West's premier trout streams into one of the West's most endangered streams.

The river's decline has reached the point that American Rivers designated it Wednesday as one of the 10 most endangered rivers on the continent.

"It has been overdone," said Lincoln native Becky Garland, "It has been overmined, over-cut, over-fished, over-recreated and overlooked."

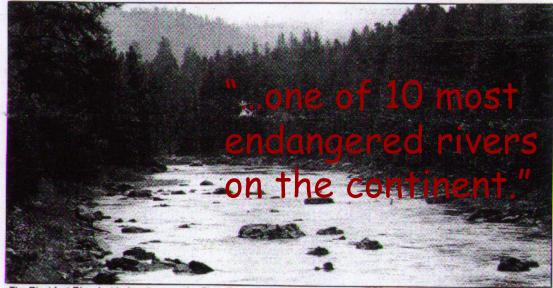
From beginning to end, the river runs due west for 130some miles through large valleys and tight canyons. For the river — and its fish — it is a run through an environmental gauntlet.

Pollution from abandoned mines foul its upper reaches. Logging and agriculture stress the river's middle section. The lower, wider portion of the Blackfoot is crowded by growing numbers of recreationalists.

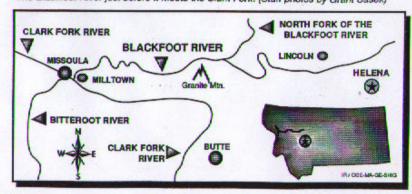
Through it all, the Big Blackfoot remains beautiful.

Except for where it begins. "There's the Goddamnest mess of minerals up here you've ever seen," 68-year-old Dan Kornec said from the office of the White Hope Mine.

Blackfoot 'in danger' as it flows through people



The Blackfoot River just before it meets the Clark Fork. (Staff photos by Grant Sasek)



"Mining them is this country's tradition."

Kornec or other family members have operated the White Hope Mine — which is in a drainage of the Blackfoot's headwaters — since World War I. The mine operates in the shadow of the Mike Horse Mine, an inactive mine infamous among conservation groups.

Even though the Mike Horse closed for the last time more than 30 years ago, barren creeks of acidic, rust-colored water heavy with copper, iron, zinc, manganese and cadmium still flow from it and other nearby mines into the Black-

(More RIVER, page 8A)



Miner Dan Kornec: 'It ain't going to get cleaned up overnight.'







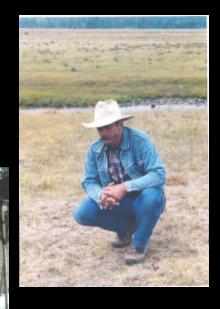








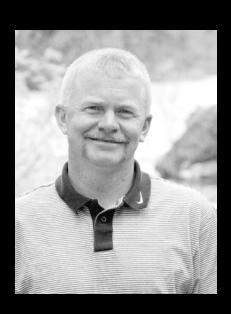


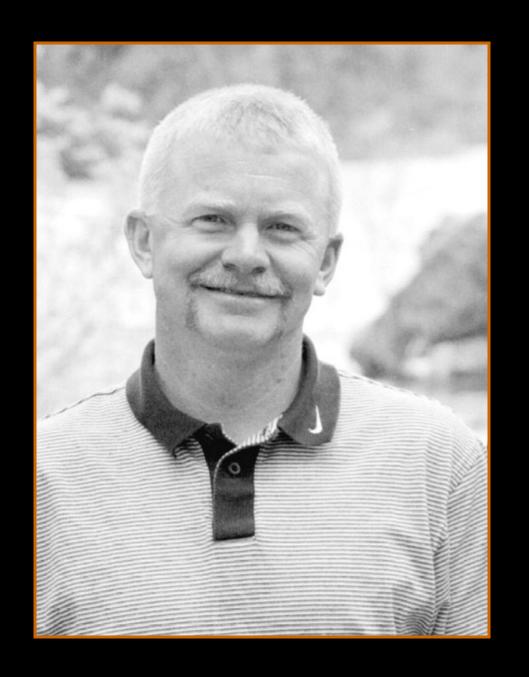














# USDA NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service Montana



**M**ontana Fish, Wildlife & Parks





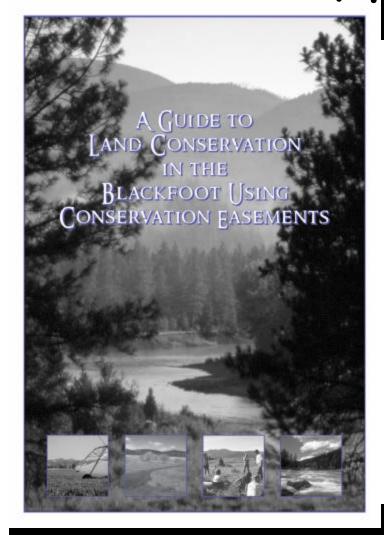


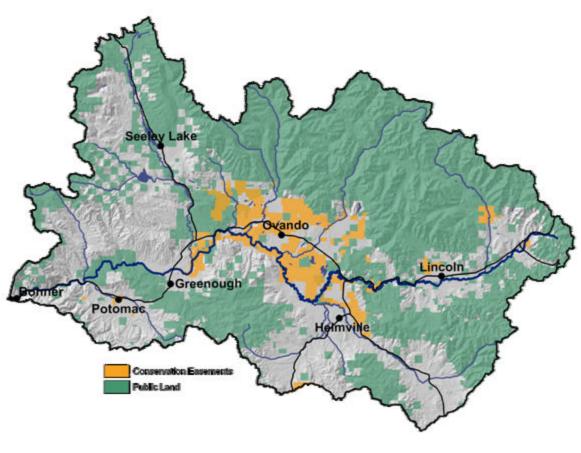


BLACKFOOT CHALLENGE









# Management



## Restoration



## Restoration



## Youth Education



## BBCTU Project Checklist

- ✓ Project Proposal presented to board
- ✓ Landowner Agreement, with signature
- ✓ Funding Sources Secured
- ✓ Conceptual design & Final Design
- ✓ Permits secured (310, 124, 410, 318...)
- ✓ Bids and bid tabulations
- ✓ Contract with contractor and consultant completed
- ✓ Downstream landowners contacted before restoration begins
- ✓ Project progress updates distrubuted as required
- ✓ Project completion report written

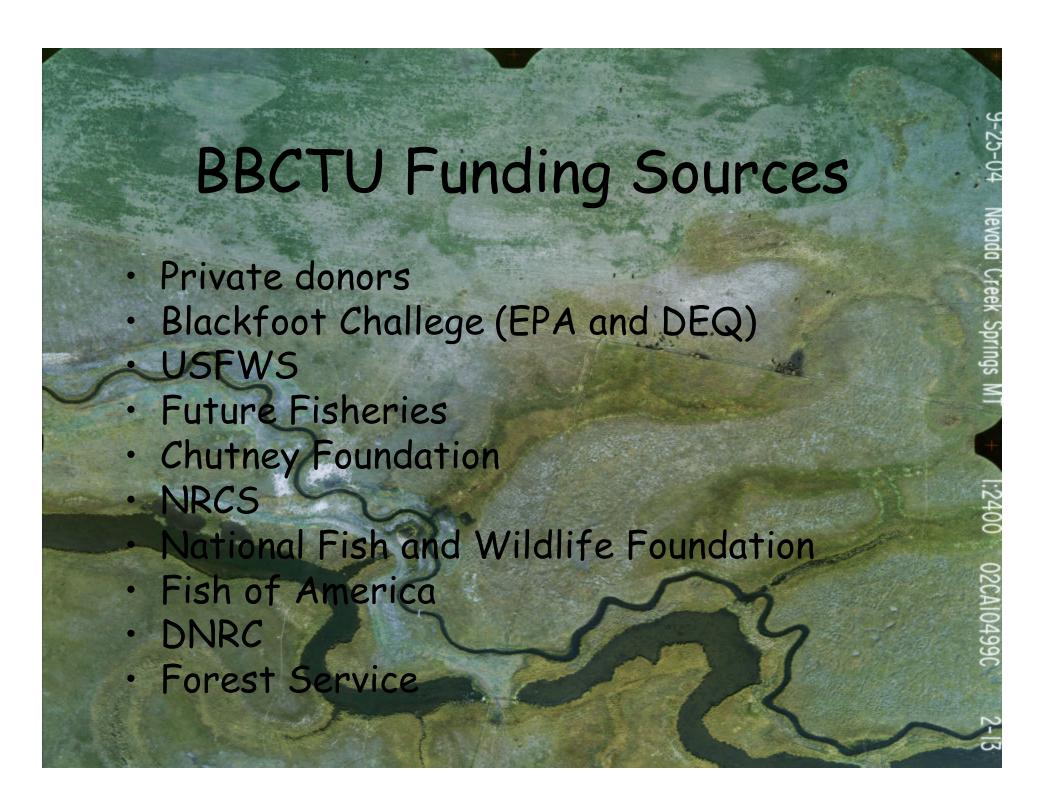




- · Over 400 individual projects since 1990
- · Projects with over 200 individual landowners
- Over \$6 million generated and spent on habitat restoration































## Keeping Ranching viable is key!

